AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A computerized Centralized Securities Depository (CSD)-system comprising:

a CSD memory including a register structure of a plurality of financial instruments and financial instrument templates, each of which is defined by attributes, and each attribute has an associated one of plural inheritance characteristics,

a CSD computer coupled to the CSD memory that configures the financial instruments and financial instrument templates in a hierarchical, multi-level structure based on the attributes and their associated inheritance characteristics such that a financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy is defined by selectively inheriting, dependent upon the associated inheritance characteristics of the attributes, the attributes of a financial instrument template on a next higher level in the hierarchy,

wherein the CSD computer is arranged to link each financial instrument to a financial instrument template on the next higher hierarchical level, and

wherein a highest hierarchical level includes financial instrument templates that cannot be traded within the CSD-system and financial instrument templates in lower levels in the hierarchy are also financial instruments which can be traded within the CSD-system.

2. Canceled.

3. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein an amendment to an attribute in a financial instrument or financial instrument template will cause the same amendment in the same attribute of those financial instruments or financial instrument templates which are linked to the amended financial instruments and which are on lower levels in the hierarchy than the amended financial instrument or financial instrument template.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, in which the financial instruments on the next higher level of the hierarchy are also financial instrument templates.

5. Canceled.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, in which financial instrument templates in the hierarchy are only allowed one link to a hierarchical level above their own hierarchical level, but more than one link to hierarchical levels below their own hierarchical level.

7. Canceled.

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8. (currently amended) A method comprising:

providing financial instruments and financial instrument templates for safekeeping in a computer-implemented Centralized Securities Depository (CSD)-system that includes a CSD computer,

defining in the computer-implemented CSD each of the financial instruments and each of the templates for financial instruments by attributes, where each attribute has an associated one of plural inheritance characteristics,

configuring, by the CSD computer, the financial instruments and financial instrument templates together in a hierarchical multi-level structure based on the attributes and their associated inheritance characteristics,

defining, by the CSD computer, a financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy by selectively inheriting, dependent upon the associated inheritance characteristics of the attributes, the attributes of a financial instrument template on a next higher hierarchical level, and

linking, by the CSD computer, each financial instrument to a financial instrument template on the next higher hierarchical level,

wherein a highest hierarchical level includes financial instrument templates that cannot be traded within the CSD-system and financial instrument templates in lower levels in the hierarchy are also financial instruments which can be traded within the CSD-system.

9. Canceled.

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10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein any amendment to an attribute in a financial instrument template causes the same amendment in the same attribute of those financial instruments or financial instrument template which are linked to the amended financial instrument or financial instrument template and which are on lower levels in the hierarchy than the amended financial instrument template.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the financial instruments placed on the next higher level of the hierarchy are financial instrument templates on a lower level of the hierarchy.

12. Canceled.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein financial instrument templates in the hierarchy only given one link to a level above their own level can have more than one link to levels below their own level.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a financial instrument is added to the CSD-system using the steps of:

finding an existing financial instrument or financial instrument template in the CSD-system which has all of the attributes of the financial instrument which is to be added,

placing the financial instrument which is to be added on a level in the hierarchy which is below said existing financial instrument or financial instrument template, and

creating a link between the financial instrument to be added and the existing financial instrument or financial instrument template to thereby add the financial instrument to the CSD system.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the plural inheritance characteristics include mandatory, optional, and exclude inheritance characteristics, and wherein a mandatory inheritance characteristic means that the associated attribute must be inherited by the financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy from the financial instrument template on the next higher level in the hierarchy, an optional inheritance characteristic means that the associated attribute may be inherited by the financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy from the financial instrument template on the next higher level in the hierarchy, and an exclude inheritance characteristic means that the associated attribute shall not be inherited by the financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy from the financial instrument template on the next higher level in the hierarchy.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein each of at least some of the attributes has an associated value that may be inherited at the one level in the hierarchy along with its associated attribute.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein each attribute value has an associated inheritance characteristic, and wherein inheritance of each attribute value to a next lower level in the hierarchy depends on its associated inheritance characteristic.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the plural inheritance characteristics include mandatory, optional, and exclude inheritance characteristics, and wherein a mandatory inheritance characteristic means that the associated attribute must be inherited by the financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy from the financial instrument template on the next higher level in the hierarchy, an optional inheritance characteristic means that the associated attribute may be inherited by the financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy from the financial instrument template on the next higher level in the hierarchy, and an exclude inheritance characteristic means that the associated attribute shall not be inherited by the financial instrument or financial instrument template on one level in the hierarchy from the financial instrument template on the next higher level in the hierarchy.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein each of at least some of the attributes has an associated value that may be inherited at the one level in the hierarchy along with its associated attribute.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein each attribute value has an associated inheritance characteristic, and wherein inheritance of each attribute value to a next lower level in the hierarchy depends on its associated inheritance characteristic.